

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEAE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OMB-01 EB-11 OPR-02 SY-10 M-03

A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 IO-12 EUR-25 AF-10 SCA-01 SCS-03

RSR-01 /153 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1924

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5021

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS LE

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY - SITREP 2

ATHENS FOR AMB BUFFUM

REF: BEIRUT 4999

1. SITUATION AS OF 1400 Z BETWEEN LEBANESE ARMY AND FEDAYEEN REMAINS CONFUSED. ALL REFUGEE CAMPS IN BEIRUT HAVE BEEN SURROUNDED BY ARMY UNITS AND INTENSITY OF FIRING VARIES. ALMOST NO SHOOTING AT THIS TIME OUTSIDE CAMP AREAS. ARMY HAS USED TANK FIRE AGAINST CAMPS, IN SOME OF WHICH BUILDINGS ARE BURNING.

2. ARMY CASUALTIES REPORTED AS 6 KIA ABOUT 12 WOUNDED.

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FEDAYEEN CASUALTIES MUCH HEAVIER, NUMBERS UNKNOWN. ARMY ASSURES US THAT, AS ANNOUNCED ITS COMMUNIQUE OF 1140 Z, FEDAYEEN OPENED FIRE ON ARMY UNITS AFTER ARMY DEMANDED RELEASE OF 2 NCO'S HELD BY PDFLP.

3. REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED THAT ARMY FUEL STATION ADJACENT TO GOLF CLUB OF LEBANON AND MAIN POST OFFICE NEAR CITE SPORTIVE WERE SET AFIRE.

4. SITUATION OUTSIDE OF BEIRUT REPORTED QUIET ALTHOUGH ARMY PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO CAMPS WHERE FEDAYEEN ARE, NATURALLY, NERVOUS.

5. ARMY UNCERTAIN AS TO WHY FEDAYEEN INITIATED ATTACK (RESERVATIONS AFTER). PESHCHERSKY ALSO SAID THAT JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS DRAFTED IN MOSCOW BEFORE TRIP BY SOVIETS AND WAS ACCEPTED READILY BY ROMANIANS WITHOUT CHANGE (SINCE COMMUNIQUE IS INNOCUOUS DOCUMENT, THIS WOULD MERELY DEMONSTRATE KEEN SOVIET AWARENESS OF WHAT ROMANIANS WOULD ACCEPT).

3. ON ARMS DELIVERIES, PESHCHERSKY HAD SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT LINE THAN THAT EXPRESSED BY ROMANIANS IN REFTEL. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, HE SAID THAT GRECHKO HAD AGREED TO GIVE ROMANIANS SIGNIFICANTLY MORE ARMS BUT " NOT ALL THAT THEY WANTED." ASKED WHAT WAS INVOLVED, PESHCHERSKY SAID DISCUSSIONS CONCERNED " HEAVY EQUIPMENT" BUT REFUSED TO ELABORATE, SAYING THAT DETAILS HAD TO BE WORKED OUT LATER. ASKED ABOUT METHOD AND TERMS OF PAYMENT, PESHCHERSKY SAID REPAYMENT WOULD BE IN " GOODS" BUT AGAIN WOULD GO NO FURTHER. SUBJECT OF MANEUVERS DID NOT ARISE ALTHOUGH, IN EARLIER CONVERSATION, SOVIET CHARGE TIKUNOV TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT NOTHING NEW WAS DECIDED IN THIS FIELD.

4. COMMENT: SOVIETS ARE CLEARLY ATTEMPTING TO SURROUND GRECHKO VISIT WITH AURA OF SUCCESS, PERHAPS TO DEGREE OF " PROTESTING TOO MUCH," WHILE ROMANIANS ARE SHOWING KEEN INTEREST IN DEMONSTRATING TO US THAT VISIT RESULTED IN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN SITUATION. SINCE BOTH PARTIES HAVE VESTED INTEREST IN PURVEYING THEIR RESPECTIVE LINES, CERTAIN CAUTIONARY NOTE IS NECESSARY IN BOTH CASES. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE ROMANIAN CLAIM AS EXPRESSED IN REFERENCE MESSAGE IS CLOSER TO TRUTH AND THAT GOR ATTITUDES TOWARD MILITARY COOPERATION REMAIN UNCHANGED.

5. ARMS DISCUSSIONS MAY BE SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN SINCE GOR PROBABLY DOES SEEK ADDITIONAL MODERN SOVIET EQUIPMENT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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AREAS WHERE IT HAS NO CAPABILITY OF ITS OWN. COLONEL POPA'S STATEMENT (PARA 15 B OF REFERENCE) THAT NO NEW ARMS AGREE-

MENTS WERE DISCUSSED MAY BE LITERALLY TRUE WITHOUT NEGATING
IDEA THAT GOR PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS
TOPIC OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO BOTH SIDES WITH GOR SEEKING
TO UPGRADE ITS EQUIPMENT, ESPECIALLY " HEAVY" VARIETIES WHILE
SOVIETS SEEK TO PALM OFF OBSOLESCEMENT MODELS WHILE SEEKING TO
APPEAR COOPERATIVE.
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